

Access, transmission, technology key to Wyo energy
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CASPER, Wyo. (AP) _ Academic, industry, state and federal government officials discussed improved access to energy resources, the need to improve power transmission and new energy technologies during a federal energy policy forum Monday. Speakers included Undersecretary of Energy Robert Card, who said the biggest problem in Wyoming is getting its energy resources to the customer. Panels dealt with incentives for production, regulatory reform and access; infrastructure; and incentives for research and technology.

Robert Horton, chief executive officer for Alchemix Corp., made a presentation for a newly patented technology that can provide a bridge from a carbon-based energy economy to a hydrogen energy economy.

“We expect to get our first plant up and running by 2005 or 2006,” he said.

Don Likwartz, state Oil and Gas supervisor, said growth in natural gas or coal-bed methane gas could hit a plateau in Wyoming next year, unless permit processing speeds up in the Powder River Basin or Jonah fields.

Panelists recommended massive use of carbon dioxide in enhanced oil recovery from mature or aging fields, with the added benefit that industry could permanently store carbon dioxide underground to help with global warming.

The forum was organized by Sen. Craig Thomas’ office.

AP-WS-04-22-03 1112EDT